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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON INVESTIGATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

EXECUTIVE REPLY

87-4700X

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August 18, 1987

The Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Webster:

As you are well aware, I have been concerned for some time about our government's handling of those individuals who have defected or are otherwise political refugees from the Soviet Union and other communist-bloc countries. Due to that concern, I have commissioned an investigation by the staff of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations into this matter. The results of that inquiry are intended to be presented to the Subcommittee in public hearings set for September 15th and 16th, 1987.

In the course of our investigation, it has become apparent that the vast majority of those who flee communist regimes are neither intelligence officers nor of such interest to our national security and national intelligence mission that they fall within the purview of your agency for support and resettlement. Nevertheless, our investigation has shown that there are a discreet number of refugees who through their background and training offer unique and important insights into the communist system that are of importance to other branches of government, academia and our society as a whole. Unfortunately, it appears that no government agency is currently entrusted with the responsibility to assist or otherwise tap this pool of insight into the communist world.

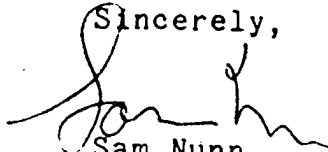
Due to your current position as well as your prior experience as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I feel that your testimony leading off our September 15th hearings is essential for the Subcommittee to understand the context in which the non-intelligence defectors are handled. It is important that your perspective as the head of the U.S. intelligence community is properly conveyed to Congress and the public at large on this important issue.

The Honorable William H. Webster
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In particular, I feel that your presentation would be useful in order to clarify the role of the CIA in regards to those individuals outside of the purview of Section 7 of the CIA Act of 1949. Your thoughts and suggestions on ways to assist these individuals while utilizing their unique attributes would also be of great assistance to the Subcommittee.

In conclusion, I would once again like to reiterate my feeling that your appearance before the Subcommittee would be of great value to us in analyzing this important issue. Chief Counsel, Eleanore J. Hill and Deputy Chief Counsel, John F. Sopko of the Subcommittee staff may be contacted at 224-3721 if your staff should have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,



Sam Nunn
Chairman